

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 15156 231509Z

53

ACTION AF-07

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INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TABS: PINT ECON ET US

SUBJ: EMAC CHAIRMAN OPENS CAMPAIGN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 15121

SUMMARY AND COMMENT. EMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BENTI ADDRESSED APPROXIMATELY 25,000 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ON DECEMBER 21 TO INITIATE THE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION PROGRESS CAMPAIGN. IN HIS SPEECH, BG TEFERI STRESSED THE SELFLESSNESS OF THE STUDENTS AND SAID THAT THE CAMPAIGN GAVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY THEIR NATION FOR PROVIDING THEM WITH EDUCATION AND TO BUILD A NEW ETHIOPIA AFTER THE EVILS OF THE ANCIEN REGIME. HE DUBBED THE STUDENTS "CRUSADERS" AND COMPARED THEIR MISSION AS TEACHERS TO THAT OF JESUS IN HIS DAY. TEFERI REASSURED THE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS THAT THEY WOULD BE CARED FOR AND WOULD NOT ACE HARDSHIPS IN SECURITY, FOOD, SHELTER, ETC. IN THE COURSE OF HIS SPEECH, TEFERI REFERRED TO

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 15156 231509Z

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS CUBA, TANZANIA, AND INDIA "WHO HAVE

SHOWN CONCRETE RESULTS THROUGH COOPERATION." THROUGHOUT THE SPEECH TERMS OF COOPERATION AND EXHORTATION, NOT FORCE AND COERCION, WERE EMPHASIZED. IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, HIS SPEECH WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS TOTAL LACK OF ANY MENTION OF SOCIALISM OR THE USE OF SOCIALIST, MARXIST-LENINIST, OR MAOIST RHETORIC. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

A GIST OF THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF TEFERI'S SPEECH FOLLOWS:

1. THE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION CAMPAIGN IS SACRED. THE STUDENTS SHOULD BE PLEASED THAT THE REALIZATION OF THEIR DREAMS IS NOW POSSIBLE. THE STUDENTS, WHO HAD REQUESTED CHANGES AND PROGRESS, NOW WERE TO BE THE INSTRUMENTS FOR THAT CHANGE. "IN ANCIENT TIMES," HE SAID, "CHRIST HAD EXHORTED HIS APOSTLES TO GO AND TEACH. TODAY, ETHIOPIA IS SENDING YOU TO THE COUNTRYSIDE TO TEACH THE PEOPLE".

2. TEFERI CRITICIZED THE ANCIEN REGIME FOR ALLOWING ETHIOPIA TO BECOME "THE GRANARY OF POVERTY, DISEASE, IGNORANCE, UNEMPLOYMENT, INJUSTICE, AND MALADMINISTRATION." HE RECALLED EMPERORS TEWODROS AND YOHANNES, "WHO STOOD FOR THE PROGRESS AND UNITY OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE TO THE LAST DROP OF THEIR BLOOD," AND NOTED THAT EMPEROR MENELIK SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE PEOPLE DURING TIEMS OF FAMINE. "THIS GENERATION," HE SAND, "IS GOING TO JUDGE MEMBERS OF THE FORMER REGIME WHO HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE WORSE AND NO BETTER THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS." HE ADDED, "ONE CAN FOOL SOME OF THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME BUT NOT ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME. THAT IS WHY THE FORMER REGIME WAS LIQUIDATED BY THE ARMED FORCES. GONE IS FEUDALISM. WE MUST BUILD OUR HOUSE ANEW."

3. TEFERI SAID THAT THE ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES WERE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY AND LIQUIDATORS OF A REACTIONARY REGIME, NOT THIRSTY FOR POWER.

4. TEFERI THEN READ OUT THE FOLLOWING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN:

(A) EXPLAIN ETHIOPIA TIKDEM AND LAY GROUNDWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT.

(B) PROVIDE LITERACY OPPORTUNITIES TO THE MASSES.
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PAGE 03 ADDIS 15156 231509Z

(C) EXPLAIN THROUGH DEED THE CONCEPT OF SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH COOPERATION.

(D) PERSUADE THE PEOPLE THAT ALCOHOLISM, PROSTITUTION, AND LUXURY HINDER PROGRESS AND SHOULD BE ERADICATED.

(E) ENCOURAGE EQUAL SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT AND CONVINCE THE PEOPLE THAT NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO OPPRESS ANOTHER BECAUSE OF HIS WEALTH, BIRTH, OR AUTHORITY.

(F) EXPLAIN THAT COMMUNITY INTEREST SHOULD BE PLACED ABOVE

NARROW SELFISH ENDS.

(G) BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN EDUCATED AND NON-EDUCATED THROUGH DIALOGUE.

(H) FIGHT FAMINE.

(I) EMPHASIZE THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN CASTE PRACTICES WHICH DEGRADE THE SOCIAL STATUS OF THE LABORER.

(J) EXPLAIN THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF LAND REFORM LEGISLATION "WHEN THIS IS DECREED."

(K) HELP IN THE REGISTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE LAND.

(L) INITIATE COOPERATIVE VENTURES AND OTHER AGRARIAN REFORMS.

5. TEFERI SAID THAT THE "OPULENT" COUNTRIES BECAME DEVELOPED BECAUSE THEIR PEOPLE WERE PREPARED TO COOPERATE, TO INCUR SACRIFICES, AND TO CARRY OUT THEIR NATIONAL DUTIES. COUNTRIES LIKE CUBA, TANZANIA, INDIA, AND "OTHERS HAVE ALSO SHOWN THE CONCRETE RESULTS OF COOPERATION," HE STATED.

6. THE CHAIRMAN REASSURED THE PARTICIPANTS THAT "MUCH PREPARATION HAS GONE INTO YOUR WELFARE." THE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR RELATIVES SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT THEIR WELL-BEING. ON THE CONTRARY, HE SAID, THEY SHOULD BE SOLELY CONCERNED WITH LEADING "THIS HOLY CAMPAIGN TO SUCCESS."

7. THIS GENERATION, TEFERI SAID, CAN MAKE ETHIOPIA INTERNATIONALLY BETTER KNOWN AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND. SINCE THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD BELIEVE IN THE EQUALITY OF MAN, ERADICATION OF IGNORANCE AND MAN'S PROGRESS, THEY WILL NOT WITHHOLD THEIR UNFLINCHING SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME WHEN IT HAS ENDED FEUDAL REPRESSION AND IS "STRUGGLING TO CARRY OUT A HOLY AND PEACEFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST IGNORANCE WITH THE ULTIMATE VIEW OF FULL FREEDOM WORTHY OF HUMAN DIGNITY." HE ADDED, "WE HOPE THAT ALL NATIONS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 ADDIS 15156 231509Z

GLOBAL PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE WITH US BOTH IN WORDS AND DEED."

8. TEFERI CONCLUDED WITH HIS WISHES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS' SUCCESS AND AN EXHORTATION FOR THEM TO BECOME A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND HOPE FOR ALL OF ETHIOPIA.

9. TEXT OF STATEMENT BEING POUCHED.
WYMAN

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